

Grade 9 & 9 Honors English Summer Work 2026 - 2027

This is due the first day of school. *The Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings will be our first novel of study; it's important that you are ready to discuss it. It is okay to listen to the audio book, but you'll need to have the paper text in all our lessons.

Instructions: closely and carefully read *The Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings. Make annotations on anything you find interesting, are confused about, or correlate to the discussion topics below.

Be prepared to discuss the following topics when you return to school:

Brady says he “didn’t mean for it to happen.” To what extent is he responsible?

How does guilt shape Brady’s decisions throughout the novel?

Why do you think Carl and J.T. decided to sabotage the DiAngelos’ kayak?

How does the setting of the Chesapeake Bay contribute to the mood and themes of the story?

In what ways does the novel explore the idea that small choices can lead to major consequences?

Compare Brady at the beginning of the novel to Brady at the end. What experiences caused the greatest changes in him?

Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from Brady’s point of view?

What role does silence play in the novel?

The red kayak becomes an important symbol throughout the story. What do you think it represents by the end of the novel?

Do you believe Brady’s final decision to tell the truth was courageous, selfish, necessary, or something else?